



AONB Office
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16 April 2018

Dear SPR

Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB Partnership response to information presented at the Public Information Days in March 2018

The Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB Partnership has been made aware of Scottish Power Renewables invitation to respond to the information supplied at the Public Information Days in March 2018.

The AONB Partnership

The Partnership was formed in 1993, it comprises public, private and voluntary organisations who are committed to conserving and enhancing the Natural Beauty of the AONB. The Partnership's role is to oversee delivery of the AONB Management Plan. It meets at least twice a year to discuss significant issues in the AONB, and delivery of the Plan. The AONB Partnership consists of:

Suffolk County Council, Essex County Council, Babergh District Council, Suffolk Coastal District Council, Tendring District Council, Waveney District Council, Ipswich Borough Council, Country Land and Business Association, The Crown Estate, Defra, Historic England, Environment Agency, Forestry Commission, Haven Gateway Partnership, National Farmers' Union, National Trust, Natural England, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Suffolk Association of Local Councils, Community Action Suffolk, Suffolk Coastal Business Forum, Suffolk Coast Ltd, Suffolk Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group, Suffolk Preservation Society, Suffolk Coast Against Retreat, Suffolk Wildlife Trust.

It should be noted that:

Many of these partners are public bodies or statutory undertakers which have the duties to conserve and enhance the Natural Beauty of the AONB as set out in section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000). They are likely to make individual representations to the information provided at the Public Information Days that reflect their individual interests and responsibilities. Furthermore, whilst the AONB Partnership is not a statutory consultee, those partners with the statutory responsibility for the AONB will make a response as appropriate.

The AONB Partnership response to the to the information provided at the Public Information Days

This is a Partnership response and, in that regard, has sought to address issues in a level of detail that all Partners can support. However, given the membership of the Partnership includes members of local authorities and statutory agencies many partners will be making their own responses, as bodies that have statutory duties to the AONB. Many partners are custodians of Natural Beauty indicators and the special qualities of the AONB, this AONB Partnership response should be complementary to those responses, rather than the only response addressing AONB issues.

Many members of the AONB Partnership have seen information produced by Scottish Power Renewables that relate to proposals for development that are likely to have a negative impact upon the natural beauty of the nationally designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

In summary the Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB Partnership Response to the information provided at the Public Information Days is:

- The Partnership is unclear what status this request for a response to the information provided at the Public Information Days is and whether it forms any part of a formal consultation process.
- The AONB Partnership prefers the western zones over those to the east, as the western zones are not sited within the nationally designated landscapes.
- Following the site visits by members of the AONB staff team, Substation Zone 7 is our initial preference, although until fuller information is provided on the design and mitigation for the development we reserve the right to review new information to confirm this.

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The AONB Partnership prefers the western zones over those to the east, as the western zones are not sited within the nationally designated landscapes. Following the site visits by members of the AONB staff team, Substation Zone 7 is our initial preference, although until fuller information is provided on the design and mitigation for the development we reserve the right to review new information to confirm this.

The western zones represent less risk to the nationally designated AONB and Heritage Coast. It notes that if Substation Zone 7 is chosen the resulting onshore cable corridor will be longer and more complex and may have impacts, both temporary and permanent, on the AONB, non-designated landscapes, the Heritage Coast and communities.

The AONB Partnership notes that view points of the proposed Offshore Infrastructure were limited to Sizewell Beach, Orford Castle, Southwold and Lowestoft. In addition to a number of other popular visitor locations and residential

areas the development of the England Coast Path along this stretch of the Suffolk Coast will mean that the range of receptor areas for the offshore infrastructure is much higher. The AONB Partnership does not consider that the sample viewpoints accurately reflect the extent of the visual intrusion that this proposed development will have residents and visitors to the nationally designated AONB. We would urge Scottish Renewable Power to commission a wider range of visual Impact work to reflect the motion of the offshore developments and further work to illustrate the impact of on shore infrastructure.

The AONB Partnership are concerned that the cumulative impacts of other development proposals within the nationally designated AONB have been acknowledged when considering the impact of Scottish Power Renewables proposals. It notes that Sizewell C and two new interconnectors (with associated on shore infrastructure) should be considered in combination with Scottish Power Renewables proposals.

The AONB Partnership consider that if these development proposals are consented then there may be residual damage to the nationally designated AONB. If these impacts cannot be avoided then mitigation should be consummate with the damage caused to the landscape (either designated or otherwise), visitor economy (currently worth c£200m pa in the AONB) and residents amenity.

Yours sincerely,



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